

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION
(Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons)

Amend Section 502
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Waterfowl, Migratory; American Coot; and
Common Moorhen (Common Gallinule)

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: April 23, 2004
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: July 30, 2004
- III. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| (a) | Notice Hearing: | Date: | June 24, 2004 |
| | | Location: | Crescent City, California |
| (b) | Discussion Hearing | Date: | August 6, 2004 |
| | | Location: | Bridgeport, California |
| (c) | Adoption Hearing: | Date: | August 27, 2004 |
| | | Location: | Morro Bay, California |
- IV. Description of Modification of Originally Proposed Language of Initial Statement of Reasons:
- (a) Remove the Northeastern Zone boundary modification proposal.
- The original proposal was to modify the Northeastern Zone boundary to include Shasta Valley in the Northeastern Zone. The proposed modification is to retract the original proposal. The Service decided that the boundary modification did not meet their criteria for a "minor" change. Instead, the Service will not consider the boundary modification until the "open season" scheduled for 2005. Under Service rules, this proposal can not be adopted until 2006.
- (b) Establish a partial season, also known as a "season within a season" for pintail with a season length of 60 days (which may be split) in all zones. See the following modifications for exact pintail season date proposals.
- The original proposal presumed that the Service would follow the interim pintail harvest strategy which allows a 100-day season rather than a 60-day partial season.
- (c) Modify Season Lengths in the Northeastern California Zone.
- The original proposal recommended a 105-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season. The proposed modification provides two alternatives: 1) A general duck season from the second Saturday in October extending for 86 days; a pintail season from the second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and a canvasback season from the first Thursday in November extending for 60 days; goose season would be unchanged from the original recommendation; or 2) A split 93-day general duck season from second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and from the third

Wednesday in December extending for 33 days, with a pintail season from the second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and a split 60-day canvasback season from the last Saturday in October extending for 39 days and from the last Monday in December extending for 21 days. Goose season in this alternative is a split 100-day season from the second Saturday in October extending for 53 days and from the second Wednesday in December extending for 47 days.

(d) Modify Season Lengths in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone.

The original proposal recommended a 100-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season. The proposed modification provides two alternatives: 1) A split 86-day general duck season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days; a split 60-day pintail season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 7 days and from the second Thursday in December extending for a period of 53 days; a continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; goose season is unchanged in this alternative; or 2) A split 94-day general duck season from the third Saturday in October extending for 22 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for 72 days; a split 60-day pintail season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for a period of 51 days; a continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; and a continuous 93-day goose season from the last Saturday in October.

(e) Modify Season Lengths in the Southern California Zone.

The original proposal recommended a continuous 100-day duck season and a continuous 100-day goose season. The proposed modification provides 3 alternatives: 1) a continuous duck season from the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days; a continuous pintail season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; no change in the originally proposed goose season; 2) a continuous 93-day general duck season from the last Saturday in October extending for 93 days; 60-day continuous pintail and canvasback seasons from the first Thursday in December; and 93-day continuous goose season from the last Saturday in October; or 3) a 100-day continuous duck season from the fourth Saturday in October; a split 60-day pintail season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for 51 days; a 100-day continuous goose season from the fourth Saturday in October.

(f) Modify Pintail Season Length in the Colorado River Zone.

The original proposal recommended a 100-day pintail season. The proposed modification is a 60-day continuous season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days.

(g) Modify Season Lengths in the Balance of State Zone.

The original proposal recommended a 100-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season. The proposed modification provides two alternatives: 1) an 86-day split general duck season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days; a 60-day split pintail season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period 14 days and from the third Thursday in December extending for a period of 46 days; a 60-day continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; goose season is unchanged from the original proposal in this alternative; 2) a 93-day continuous general duck season from the last Saturday in October; a 60-day split

pintail season from the last Saturday in October extending for 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for 51 days; a 60-day continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; a continuous 93-day goose season from the last Saturday in October.

- (h) Modify Daily Bag Limits of mallards in all zones except the Colorado River Zone where federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona.

The original proposal recommended a daily bag limit of 7 mallards. The proposed modification is to provide two alternative daily bag limits for mallards: either 1) a daily bag limit of 5 mallards with 2 hens in 86-day seasons, or 2) a daily bag limit of 5 mallards with 1 hen in 93- or 94-day seasons.

- (i) Modify proposed season length for geese in the North Coast Special Management Area.

The original proposal recommended this goose season to open on the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days. The proposed modification provides two alternatives: 1) open on the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days which is no change from originally proposed; or, 2) open the last Saturday in October extending for 93 days.

- (j) Modify Falconry Season length in the Southern California Zone.

The original proposal recommended falconry season to open concurrently with duck season extending for 107 days. The proposed modification will open concurrently with goose season extending for 107 days.

V. Reasons for Modification of Originally Proposed Language of Initial Statement of Reasons:

Sections 355 and 356 of the Fish and Game Code authorize the Fish and Game Commission to annually adopt regulations pertaining to the hunting of migratory birds that conform with, or further restrict, the regulations prescribed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. These regulations ensure the conservation of waterfowl while providing for their use. In addition, each year States may make recommendations to change federal regulations to Flyway Councils, which may forward these to the Service. By early August, the Service establishes federal regulations.

The Service, through the analysis of waterfowl population survey and other data, may also initiate changes in federal regulations which will require changes in existing and proposed State regulations. Changes in federal regulations for season opening and closing dates, elimination or creating of special management areas, season length, and daily bag limits for migratory birds may occur. The Service establishes rules for "early season" hunting (waterfowl seasons that occur prior to October 1) in June of each year and establishes "late season" rules (waterfowl seasons that begin after October 1) in August of each year.

Most state-initiated changes were ultimately approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service and one was not. The Service provided specific mandates for season lengths in some cases. In addition, public comment resulted in specific alternatives that the Department recommends for consideration by the Commission. These alternatives are likely to have similar biological effects to the modified recommendations by the Department, but have differing social considerations.

- (a) Remove the Northeastern Zone boundary modification proposal.

The Service decided that the boundary modification did not meet their criteria for a "minor"

change. Instead, the Service will consider the boundary modification during their “open season” for zone boundary modifications set to occur in 2005. Thus, under Service rules, the original proposal could be considered until 2006.

- (b) Establish a partial season, also known as a “season within a season” for pintail with a season length of 60 days (which may be split) in all zones.

Based on information from the Service regarding the breeding population size of pintail in North America, only a 60-day partial pintail season, or a “season within a season” will be allowed.

- (c)-(h) Modify Season Lengths in the Northeastern California, Southern San Joaquin Valley, Southern California, Colorado River, Balance of State zones, and reduce the mallard daily bag limit.

When the Initial Statement of Reasons was prepared in April, the results from the May 2004 California Breeding Pair Survey were unavailable. The results cause the Department to modify the original proposals because local duck populations are down 23 percent from last year and 31 percent below the long-term average. Also, based on information from the Service, only a 60-day partial pintail season, or a “season within a season” will be allowed. Thus, the Department proposes the “moderate” package as defined in Adaptive Harvest Management, which is a shorter overall season with lower daily bag limits for mallards. This shorter season and lower mallard bag limit not only reduce harvest on local stocks of ducks, but in combination with the federally-mandated short pintail season, results in a shorter duration of an open duck season with a closed pintail season. In response to the Department’s revised proposal, public comment has suggested alternatives to the Department proposals that are likely to result in a similar reduction in local duck harvest. These recommendations incorporate a longer season (by 7 days) but a reduction in the daily bag limit for hen mallards. Because these recommendations are similar in terms of predicted biological effect, but have different public perceptions, they are presented as alternatives in this modification.

- (i) Modify proposed season length for geese in the North Coast Special Management Area.

The original proposal recommended this goose season to open on the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days. This would have resulted in a concurrent opening date for goose and duck hunting and would have allowed the maximum season length for geese in this area under the Federal frameworks. The first alternative to open on the fourth Saturday in October (no change from originally proposed) would result in a concurrent opening date with one proposed duck season alternative or may result in a goose season opening before the duck season. This would allow the maximum number of hunting days. The second alternative would open the last Saturday in October (concurrent with one alternative for duck season) and extend for 93 days. This alternative is needed if that duck season date is selected because Federal frameworks would not allow a 100-day goose season if it opened the last Saturday in October because it would end too late.

- (j) Modify Falconry Season length in the Southern California Zone.

Changes to the recommended season length for the general duck season require that the falconry regulations be changed such that total open seasons for waterfowl do not exceed the maximum allowed under federal law.

VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Opposition and in Support:

- (a) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends season length to be 100 days and/or reduce duck daily bag limit to 4 or 5.

Proposal Source:

Greg Silva, Paradise, CA (Email received 7/19/04)

Greg Silva, Paradise, CA (Email received 7/27/04)

Gary Dossey, Yuba City, CA (Email received 7/28/04)

Recommendation: Reject, in part.

Analysis: The 2004 California Breeding Pair Survey indicates local duck populations are down 23 percent from last year and 31 percent below the long-term average. The Department's recommendation of a 7 duck daily bag with a maximum of 5 mallards is sufficient to reduce harvest with an 86-day season. Regulations designed to reduce harvest are achieved more effectively by reducing season length, not bag limit. Preliminary analyses suggest the mallard daily bag limit would have to be reduced to about 2 if a 100-day season were maintained in order to have a reduction in harvest commensurate with the proposed 86-day season. The Department concludes that hunters are unaware of the magnitude of bag size reduction and are more likely to support the proposed shorter season with higher bag limits.

- (b) Description of Proposed Action by Public: 1) Opposed to modifying the boundary of the Northeastern Zone to include Shasta Valley in the Northeastern Zone; 2) supports the recommendation of an increase in the goose season from 86 to 100 days in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State zones; and 3) recommends regulations that allow for greatest hunting days with smaller daily bag limits.

Proposal Source:

Rich Klug, Yreka, CA

(Email received 7/27/04)

Recommendation: 1) Reject 2) Accept 3) Reject

Analysis: 1) The Service decided that the boundary modification did not meet their criteria for a "minor" change. Instead, the Service will not consider the boundary modification until the "open season" scheduled for 2005. Under Service rules, this proposal can not be adopted until 2006; 2) Supports Proposal; and 3) The 2004 California Breeding Pair Survey indicates local duck populations is 23 percent below last year and 31 percent below the long-term average. The Department's recommendation of a 7 duck daily bag with a maximum of 5 mallards is sufficient to reduce harvest with an 86 day season. Regulations designed to reduce harvest are achieved more effectively by reducing season length, not bag limit. Preliminary analyses suggest the duck daily bag limit would have to be reduced to about 2 with a 100-day season, to have a reduction in harvest commensurate with that from an 86-day season. The Department concludes that hunters are unaware of the magnitude of bag size reduction and are more likely to support the proposed shorter season with higher bag limits.

- (c) Description of Proposed Action by Public: 1) Supports the Department's recommendation to reduce the harvest of local ducks but recommends a slightly longer season (93 days) with a lower daily bag limit for hens (1/day); 2) reduce goose season lengths from 100 days to 93 days in most zones to allow opening dates to be concurrent with duck season opening dates; 3) modify goose season in the Northeastern California zone to be a split season that ends on January 23; 4) modify the canvasback season in the Northeastern California zone to be a split season.

Proposal Source:

Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association, Sacramento, CA
(Testimony at August 6, 2004 meeting)

Recommendation: 1) Neutral 2) Neutral 3) Reject 4) Neutral

Analysis: 1) and 2) Precise predictions of the magnitude of the waterfowl harvest arising from a particular set of regulations are not possible, mostly because there are a wide variety of factors that contribute to the harvest that are not controlled by the regulations (e.g. weather, hunter participation) and partly because there has been a great deal of fluctuations in annual regulations, which confounds any analysis. Adaptive Harvest Management uses only 3 regulatory packages (combinations of season length and daily bag limits) to address this issue. The goal of reduced season length and bag limits is to reduce harvest to a level such that harvest does not play a significant role in the population dynamics of the harvested species. In the case of ducks, most evidence supports a limited or non-existent role of harvest (partly because regulations have reflected population status) especially for male ducks. The role of harvest is less clear for female ducks, which undergo substantial natural mortality especially during the nesting season. Thus, the longer seasons with a lower hen bag limit proposed are not likely to have a measurably different effect on duck population dynamics from those proposed by the Department. However, this proposal continues the wide variation in annual regulation packages which limits predictability and will result in a longer period of time in which the hunting season is open for ducks but closed for pintail. This is a potential issue for some hunters, as pintail are the most numerous and visible ducks in California in winter. 3) The proposal to end the goose season in the Northeastern California zone one week later than proposed by the Department has the significant potential to increase harvest of locally-nesting geese to a higher than acceptable level. 4) A split season for canvasback will not result in different biological effects but increase regulation complexity by a small degree.

- (d) Description of Proposed Action by Public: 1) adopt a 60-day season with a daily bag limit of 4 birds with 1 hen mallard; 2) end the season by January 15, 2005; 3) have youth hunts before rather than after the season

Proposal Source:

Howard Ellman, San Francisco, CA
(Letter dated July 28, 2004)

Recommendation: 1) Reject 2) Reject 3) Reject

Analysis: 1) Federal frameworks allow for up to a 107 days of hunting in the Pacific Flyway with daily bag limits of up to 7 ducks per day of which 7 may be mallards and 2 may be hen mallards. This regulatory package is provided through the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) process, which scientifically and objectively considers the status of mid-continent mallards in the context of mathematical population models and current habitat conditions. Mid-continent mallards serve as a surrogate for the other species of ducks (wigeon, green-wing teal, gadwall, and shovelers that comprise nearly 80% of the duck harvest in California. However AHM does not explicitly incorporate the status of locally-nesting ducks. Accordingly, the Department's recommendation, or the alternatives, provides consideration for both the hunting opportunity and scientifically-based regulation package from AHM and the status of local ducks. 2) The ending date is set by Federal framework and was extended 3 years ago. At that time, predictions for up to a 10% increase in harvest were made, however such harvest increases have not materialized. An analysis by the Department in the Environmental Document fails to find any measurable effect of a later closing date on local ducks. 3) The Department

recommended and the Commission adopted pre-season youth hunts in the first year they were offered by the Federal government. Participation was lower and complaints were received that a pre-season youth hunt negatively affected the hunting success on the general duck season opening day. Participation is significantly higher with post-season youth days, which is progress toward the goal of increasing hunting participation by young people through these special opportunity hunts, however, total participation is still relatively inconsequential compared to the general season, and the Service considers the additional harvest from the youth hunting days to be minor.

Updated Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Current regulations in Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), provide definitions, hunting zone descriptions, season opening and closing dates, and daily bag and possession limits. In addition to the eight proposals contained herein, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), through the analysis of waterfowl population survey and other data, may also initiate changes in federal regulations which will require changes in existing and proposed State regulations. Changes in federal regulations for season opening and closing dates, modifying zone boundaries, elimination or creation of special management areas, season length, and daily bag limits for migratory birds may occur. ~~All~~ **Some** proposed changes **(numbers 1 and 9 through 12)** to State regulations ~~(excluding proposal 2)~~ require changes in the federal regulations and also must be approved by the Pacific Flyway Council at their meeting on July 23, 2004. ~~Proposal 2 is consistent with federal regulations as they are currently understood.~~ The Service will consider these and other recommendations at their meeting on July 29, 2004. The Department is anticipating that the Service will follow the pintail interim harvest strategy which allows a 1 bird daily bag limit throughout the general duck season and that the Service will also allow a 60 day canvasback season. Also, minor editorial changes were made to clarify and simplify the regulations and to comply with existing federal frameworks. **At the time of the Initial Statement of Reasons, the 2004 California Breeding Pair Survey was not completed and the results were unavailable. The results are now available which cause the Department to modify the original proposal because local duck populations are down 23 percent from last year and 31 percent below the long-term average. Also, based on information from the Service, only a 60-day partial pintail season, or a "season within a season" will be allowed. In addition, alternative modifications, provided by the public, are included that are expected to result in similar biological responses by the harvested populations.**

1. ~~Modify the existing boundary in the Northeastern Zone to include Shasta Valley in the Northeastern Zone.~~

The proposed change retracts the Northeastern Zone boundary modification proposal. The Service decided that the boundary modification did not meet their criteria for a "minor" change. Instead, the Service will not consider the boundary modification until the "open season" scheduled for 2005. Under Service rules, this proposal can not be adopted until 2006.

2. ~~Modify the duck season in the Northeastern Zone from a 105-day split (2 segments) season to a 105-day continuous season.~~

The original proposal recommended a 105-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season. The proposed modification provides two alternatives:

1) A continuous 86-day general duck season from the second Saturday in October; a pintail season from the second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and a canvasback season from the first Thursday in November extending for 60 days; goose season would be unchanged from the original recommendation; or
2) A split 93-day general duck season from second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and from the third Wednesday in December extending for 33 days, with a pintail season from the second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and a split 60-day canvasback season from the last Saturday in October extending for 39 days and from the last Monday in December extending for 21 days. Goose season in this alternative is a split 100-day season from the second Saturday in October extending for 53 days and from the second Wednesday in December extending for 47 days.

3. ~~Increase the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zone duck season length from 99 days (split) to a 100-day continuous season opening on the fourth Saturday in~~

~~October.~~

The original proposal recommended a 100-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone. The proposed modification provides two alternatives:

1) A split 86-day general duck season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days; a split 60-day pintail season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 7 days and from the second Thursday in December extending for a period of 53 days; a continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; goose season is unchanged in this alternative; or

2) A split 94-day general duck season from the third Saturday in October extending for 22 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for 72 days; a split 60-day pintail season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for a period of 51 days; a continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; and a continuous 93-day goose season from the last Saturday in October.

- ~~4. Increase the 60-day partial pintail season to a 100-day (full season) in all zones.~~
4. The original proposal recommended a continuous 100-day duck season and a continuous 100-day goose season in the Southern California Zone. The proposed modification provides 3 alternatives:
 - 1) a 86-day continuous duck season from the first Saturday in November; a continuous pintail season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; no change in the originally proposed goose season;
 - 2) a 93-day continuous duck season from the last Saturday in October; 60-day continuous pintail and canvasback seasons from the first Thursday in December; and 93-day continuous goose season from the last Saturday in October; or
 - 3) a 100-day continuous duck season from the fourth Saturday in October; a split 60-day pintail season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for 51 days; a 100-day continuous goose season from the fourth Saturday in October.
5. The proposed modification for the Colorado River Zone is as follows: The pintail season will be from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days.
6. The original proposal recommended a 100-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season in the Balance of State Zone. The proposed modification provides two alternatives:
 - 1) an 86-day split duck season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days; a 60-day split pintail season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period 14 days and from the third Thursday in December extending for a period of 46 days; a 60-day continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; goose season is unchanged from the original proposal in this alternative;
 - 2) a 93-day continuous duck season from the last Saturday in October; a 60-day split pintail season from the last Saturday in October extending for 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for 51 days; a 60-day continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; a continuous 93-day goose season from the last Saturday in October.

7. The original proposal recommended a daily bag limit of 7 mallards. The proposed modification is to provide two alternative daily bag limits for mallards: either 1) a daily bag limit of 5 mallards with 2 hens in 86-day seasons except the Colorado River Zone where federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona, or 2) a daily bag limit of 5 mallards with 1 hen in 93- or 94-day seasons except the Colorado River Zone where federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona.
8. The proposed change for pintail establishes a partial season, also known as a "season within a season" for pintail with a season length of 60 days (which may be split) in all zones. Based on information from the Service, only a 60-day partial pintail season, or a "season within a season" will be allowed.
59. Lengthen the goose season from 86 to **either 93 or 100** days in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones.
610. Increase the dark goose daily bag limit from 2 to 3 in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones.
711. Increase the season length from 16 to **either 93 or 100** days for Canada geese in the North Coast Special Management Area.
812. Increase the Small Canada goose daily bag limit from 1 to 2 but maintain the daily bag limit of 1 Large Canada geese in the North Coast Special Management Area.
13. The proposed modification for falconry season in the Southern California Zone will open concurrently with goose season extending for 107 days.

Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, is amended to read:

§502. Waterfowl, Migratory; American Coot and Common Moorhen (Common Gallinule).

(a) Definitions.

(1) Dark geese. Dark geese include Canada geese, cackling geese, Aleutian geese and white-fronted geese ("specklebelly").

(2) Large Canada geese. Canada geese include western Canada geese ("honker") and lesser Canada geese ("lessers").

(3) Small Canada geese. Small (about the size of a mallard) Canada geese include cackling geese and Aleutian geese. Both are white-cheeked geese nearly identical in appearance to Large Canada geese. Aleutian geese have a thin white neck ring and Cackling geese have dark breasts. Both species have a high-pitched cackle as opposed to the deeper "honking".

(4) White geese. White geese include Ross' geese and snow geese.

(b) Waterfowl Hunting Zones.

(1) Northeastern California Zone: In that portion of California lying east and north of a line beginning at the intersection of ~~the Klamath River~~ the Klamath River-Interstate 5 with the California-Oregon line; south ~~along Interstate 5 to its junction with Walters Lane south of the town of Yreka; west along Walters Lane to its junction with Easy Street; and west along the Klamath River to the mouth of Shovel Creek; along Shovel Creek to its intersection with Forest Service Road 46N05 at Burnt Camp; west to its junction with Forest Service Road 46N10; south and east to its Junction with County Road 7K007; south and west to its junction with Forest Service Road 45N22; south and west to its junction with Highway 97 at Grass Lake Summit; south along to its junction with Interstate 5 at the town of Weed and west along the Klamath River to the mouth of Shovel Creek; along Shovel Creek to its intersection with Forest Service Road 46N05 at Burnt Camp; west to its junction with Forest Service Road 46N10; south and east to its Junction with County Road 7K007; south and west to its junction with Forest Service Road 45N22; south and west to its junction with Highway 97 at Grass Lake Summit; south along to its junction with Interstate 5 at the town of Weed south along Easy Street to the junction with Old Highway 99; south along Old Highway 99 to the point of intersection with Interstate 5 north of the town of Weed; south along Interstate 5~~ along Interstate 5 to its junction with Highway 89; east and south along Highway 89 to main street Greenville; north and east to its junction with North Valley Road; south to its junction of Diamond Mountain Road; north and east to its junction with North Arm Road; south and west to the junction of North Valley Road; south to the junction with Arlington Road (A22); west to the junction of Highway 89; south and west to the junction of Highway 70; east on Highway 70 to Highway 395; south and east on Highway 395 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada state line; north along the California-Nevada state line to the junction of the California-Nevada-Oregon state lines west along the California-Oregon line state to the point of origin.

(2) Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone: All of Kings and Tulare counties and that portion of Kern County north of the Southern California Zone.

(3) Southern California Zone: In that portion of southern California (but excluding the Colorado River zone) lying south and east of a line beginning at the mouth of the Santa Maria River at the Pacific Ocean; east along the Santa Maria River to where it crosses Highway 166 near the City of Santa Maria; east on Highway 166 to the junction with Highway 99; south on Highway 99 to the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains at Tejon Pass; east and north along the crest of the Tehachapi Mountains to where it intersects Highway 178 at Walker Pass; east on Highway 178 to the junction of Highway 395 at the town of Inyokern; south on Highway 395 to the junction of Highway 58; east on Highway 58 to the junction of Interstate 15; east on Interstate 15 to the junction with Highway 127; north on Highway 127 to the point of intersection with the California-Nevada state line.

(4) Colorado River Zone: In those portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial counties lying east of the following lines: Beginning at the intersection of Highway 95 with the California-Nevada state line; south along Highway 95 to Vidal Junction; south through the town of Rice to the San Bernardino-Riverside county line on a road known as "Aqueduct Road" in San Bernardino County; south from the San Bernardino-Riverside county line on road known in Riverside County as the "Desert Center to Rice Road" to the town of Desert Center; east 31 miles on Interstate 10 to its intersection with the Wiley Well Road; south on this road to Wiley Well; southeast along the Army-Milpitas Road to the Blythe, Brawley, Davis Lake intersections; south on the Blythe-Brawley paved road to its intersection with the Ogilby and Tumco Mine Road; south on this road to Highway 80; east seven miles on Highway 80 to its intersection with the

Andrade-Algodones Road; south on this paved road to the intersection of the Mexican boundary line at Algodones, Mexico.

(5) Balance of State Zone: That portion of the state not included in Northeastern California, Southern California, Colorado River or the Southern San Joaquin Valley zones.

(A) Special Management Areas

1. North Coast. All of Del Norte and Humboldt counties.

2. Humboldt Bay (South). Beginning at the intersection of the north boundary of Table Bluff County Park and the South Jetty Road; north along the South Jetty Road to the South Jetty; west along the South Jetty to the mean low water line of the Pacific Ocean; south along mean water line to its intersection with the north boundary of the Table Bluff County Park; east along the north boundary of the Table Bluff County Park to the point of origin.

3. Sacramento Valley (West). Beginning at the town of Willows; south on Interstate 5 to the junction with Hahn Road; east on Hahn Road and the Grimes-Arbuckle Road to the town of Grimes; north on Highway 45 to its junction with Highway 162; north on Highway 45-162 to the town of Glenn; west on Highway 162 to the point of beginning.

4. Sacramento Valley (East). Beginning at the junction of the Gridley-Colusa Highway and the Cherokee Canal; west on the Gridley-Colusa Highway to Gould Road; west on Gould Road and due west 0.75 miles directly to Highway 45; south on Highway 45 to Highway 20; east on Highway 20 to West Butte Road; north on West Butte Road to Pass Road; west on Pass Road to West Butte Road; north on West Butte Road to North Butte Road; west on North Butte Road and due west 0.5 miles directly to the Cherokee Canal; north on the Cherokee Canal to the point of beginning.

5. Morro Bay. Beginning at a point where the high tide line intersects the State Park boundary west of Cuesta by the Sea; northeasterly to a point 200 yards offshore of the high tide line at the end of Mitchell Drive in Baywood Park; northeasterly to a point 200 yards offshore of the high tide line west of the Morro Bay State Park Boundary, adjacent to Baywood Park; north to a point 300 yards south of the high tide line at the end of White Point; north along a line 400 yards offshore of the south boundary of the Morro Bay City limit to a point adjacent to Fairbanks Point; northwesterly to the high tide line on the sand spit; southerly along the high tide line of the sand spit to the south end of Morro Bay; easterly along the Park boundary at the high tide line to the beginning point.

6. Martis Creek Lake. The waters and shoreline of Martis Creek Lake, Placer and Nevada counties.

7. Imperial County. Beginning at Highway 86 and the Navy Test Base Road; south on Highway 86 to the town of Westmoreland; continue through the town of Westmoreland to Route S26; east on Route S26 to Highway 115; north on highway 115 to Weist Rd.; north on Weist Rd. to Flowing Wells Rd.; northeast on Flowing Wells Rd. to the Coachella Canal; northwest on the Coachella Canal to Drop 18; a straight line from Drop 18 to Frink Rd.; south on Frink Rd. to Highway 111; north on Highway 111 to Niland Marina Rd.; southwest on Niland Marina Rd. to the old Imperial County boat ramp and the water line of the Salton Sea; from the water line of the Salton Sea, a straight line across the Salton Sea to the Salinity Control Research Facility and the Navy Test Base Road; southwest on the Navy Test Base Road to the point of beginning.

(c) Statewide Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for American Coots, Common Moorhens, and Black Brant.

(1) Species	(2) Season	(3) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
American Coot and Common Moorhen-	Concurrent with duck season(s).	25 per day, 25 in possession, either all of one species or a mixture of these species.
Black Brant	From November 10 through December 9.	2 per day, 4 in possession.

(d) Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Ducks and Geese by Zone.

(1) Northeastern California Zone

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers)	<p>A split season from the second Saturday in October extending for a period of 60 days and from the second Friday in December extending for a period of 45 days.</p> <p>[Alternative 1] <u>From the second Saturday in October extending for 405 86 days</u></p> <p>[Alternative 2] <u>A split season from the second Saturday in October extending for a period of 60 days and from the third Wednesday in December extending for a period of 33 days.</u></p> <p>Pintails: a split season from the second Saturday in October extending for a period of 51 days and from the third Saturday in January extending for a period of 9 days. <u>Pintails: from the second Saturday in October extending for 60 days.</u></p> <p>[Alternative 1] Canvasbacks from the second<u>first Saturday</u>Thursday in October<u>November</u> extending for 60 days.</p> <p>[Alternative 2] <u>A split season from the last Saturday in October extending for a period of 39 days and from the last Monday in December extending for a period of 21 days.</u></p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 7<u>5</u> mallards, but not more than <p>[Alternative 1] 2 females. [Alternative 2] 1 female.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only 1 pintail of either sex. • only 1 canvasback of either sex. • only 2 redheads of either sex. • only 4 scaup. <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit</p>
Geese	<p>[Alternative 1]</p> <p>From the second Saturday in October extending for 100 days</p> <p>[Alternative 2] <u>split season from the second Saturday in October extending for a period of 53 days and from the second Wednesday in December extending for a period of 47 days.</u></p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 3 Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 3 white geese. • only 2 dark geese of which only 1 may be a s<u>Small</u> Canada goose (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

(2) Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including	A split season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 33 days	Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit makeup:

Mergansers)	<p>and from the third Friday in November extending for a period of 66 days. From the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</p> <p>[Alternative 1]</p> <p><u>A split season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days.</u></p> <p>[Alternative 2]</p> <p><u>A split season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 22 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days.</u></p> <p>Pintails: a split season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 9 days and from the first Saturday in December extending for a period of 51 days.</p> <p>[Alternative 1]</p> <p><u>Pintails: a split season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 7 days and from the second Thursday in December extending for a period of 53 days.</u></p> <p>[Alternative 2]</p> <p><u>Pintails: a split season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for a period of 51 days.</u></p> <p>Canvasbacks from the fourth first Thursday in November December extending for 60 days.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 75 mallards, but not more than <p>[Alternative 1] 2 females. [Alternative 2] 1 female.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> only 1 pintail of either sex. only 1 canvasback of either sex. only 2 redheads of either sex. only 4 scaup. <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>
Geese	<p>[Alternative 1]</p> <p>From the first fourth Saturday in November October extending for 86 100 days</p> <p>[Alternative 2]</p> <p><u>From the last Saturday in October extending for 93 days.</u></p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 3 Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 3 white geese. only 2 up to 3 dark geese of which only 1 may be a sSmall Canada goose (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

(3) Southern California Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (5)(D) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND

CLOSURES.)

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers)-	<p>[Alternative 1]</p> <p>From the third <u>fourth</u> first Saturday in October <u>November</u> extending for 40 <u>86</u> days</p> <p>[Alternative 2]</p> <p><u>From the last Saturday in October extending for 93 days</u></p> <p>[Alternative 3]</p> <p><u>From the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</u></p> <p>Pintails from the fourth Thursday in November extending for 60 days.</p> <p>[Alternative 1]</p> <p><u>Pintails from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days.</u></p> <p>[Alternative 2]</p> <p><u>Pintails: a split season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period of 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for a period of 51 days.</u></p> <p><u>Canvasbacks from the fourth <u>first</u> Thursday in November <u>December</u> extending for 60 days.</u></p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7</p> <p>Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 7 <u>5</u> mallards, but not more than <p>[Alternative 1] 2 females.</p> <p>[Alternative 2] 1 female.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only 1 pintail of either sex. • only 1 canvasback of either sex. • only 2 redheads of either sex. • only 4 scaup. <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>
Geese	<p>[Alternative 1]</p> <p>From the third <u>fourth</u> Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</p> <p>[Alternative 2]</p> <p><u>From the last Saturday in October extending for 93 days.</u></p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 5</p> <p>Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 3 white geese. • up to 3 dark geese, but of <u>which</u> only 1 may be a sSmall Canada goose (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

(4) Colorado River Zone

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
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Ducks (including Mergansers)	<p>From the Friday after the second<u>third</u> Sunday in October extending for 101 days.</p> <p>Pintails from the fourth Thursday in November extending for 60 days. <u>Pintails from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days.</u></p> <p>Canvasbacks from the fourth<u>first</u> Thursday in November<u>December</u> extending for 60 days.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 7 mallards, but not more than 2 females or Mexican-like ducks. • only 1 pintail of either sex. • only 1 canvasback of either sex. • only 2 redheads of either sex. • only 4 scaup. <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>
Geese	<p>From October 17<u>22</u> extending for 101 days.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 6 Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 3 white geese. • up to 3 dark geese (see definitions: 502(a)). <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

(5) Balance of State Zone (NOTE: SEE SUBSECTION (D) BELOW FOR SPECIAL SEASONS AND CLOSURES.)

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers).	<p>A split season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 33 days and from the third Friday in November extending for a period of 66 days. From the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days.</p> <p>[Alternative 1]</p> <p><u>A split season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days.</u></p> <p>[Alternative 2]</p> <p><u>From the last Saturday in October extending for 93 days.</u></p> <p>Pintails: a split season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 9 days and from the first Saturday in December extending for a period of 51 days.</p> <p>[Alternative 1]</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 7 Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 7<u>5</u> mallards, but not more than [Alternative 1] 2 females. [Alternative 2] 1 female. • only 1 pintail of either sex. • only 1 canvasback of either sex. • only 2 redheads of either sex. • only 4 scaup. <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

	<p><u>Pintails: a split season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Thursday in December extending for a period of 46 days.</u></p> <p>[Alternative 2]</p> <p><u>Pintails: a split season from the last Saturday in October extending for a period of 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for a period of 51 days.</u></p> <p>Canvasbacks from the fourth-first Thursday in November-December extending for 60 days.</p>	
Geese	<p>[Alternative 1]</p> <p>From the first fourth Saturday in November-October extending for 86 100 days.</p> <p>[Alternative 2]</p> <p><u>From the last Saturday in October extending for 93 days</u></p> <p><u>EXCEPT in the Sacramento Valley (West) Special Management Area where the white-fronted goose season will be open from the last Saturday in October through December 14.</u></p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 3 Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to 3 white geese. • only 2 up to 3 dark geese <u>EXCEPT in the Sacramento Valley West Special Management Area where only 2 may be white-fronted geese, of which only 1 may be a small Canada goose (see definitions: 502(a)).</u> • <u>only 1 dark goose may be a Small Canada goose (see definitions: 502(a)).</u> <p>Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.</p>

(D) Special Management Areas

Area	Species	Season
1. North Coast	All Canada Geese	<p>[Alternative 1]</p> <p>From the second-fourth Saturday in November-October extending for 46100 days</p> <p>[Alternative 2]</p> <p><u>From the last Saturday in October extending for 93 days.</u></p> <p>Daily bag limit: 42 Canada Goose Geese of which only 1 may be a <u>Large Canada goose</u> (see definitions: 502(a)).</p>

		Possession limit: double the daily bag limit.
2. South Humboldt Bay	All species	Closed November 10 through December 9.
3. Sacramento Valley (West)	White-Fronted Geese	Open from the last Saturday in October through Closed after December 14, except for Youth Hunting Days. Daily bag limit: 2 white-fronted geese (see definitions: 502(a)).
4. Sacramento Valley (East)	All Canada Geese	Closed all year.
5. Morro Bay	All species	Open in designated area only.
6. Martis Lake	All species	Closed until November 16.
7. Imperial County	White geese	Open from the end of the general goose season through the first Sunday in February. Daily bag limit: 3 white geese. Possession limit double the daily bag limit.

(e) Youth Hunting Days Regulations (NOTE: Youth hunters must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult 18 years of age or older.)

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers), American Coot, Common Moorhen, Black Brant, Geese	<p>1. Northeastern California Zone: The last weekend in September.</p> <p>2. Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p> <p>3. Southern California Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p> <p>4. Colorado River Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season.</p> <p>5. Balance of State Zone: The Saturday following the closing of waterfowl season extending for 2 days.</p>	Same as regular season.

(f) Falconry Take of Ducks (including Mergansers), Geese, American Coots, and Common Moorhens.

(1) Statewide Provisions

(A) Species	(B) Season	(C) Daily Bag and Possession Limits
Ducks (including Mergansers), Geese, American Coot and Common Moorhen	<p>1. Northeastern California Zone. Open concurrently with duck season and extending for 105 days.</p> <p>2. Balance of State Zone. Open concurrently with duck season and extending for 107 days.</p> <p>3. Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone. Open concurrently with duck season and extending for 107 days.</p> <p>4. Southern California Zone. Open concurrently with gooseduckgoose season and extending for 107 days.</p> <p>5. Colorado River Zone. Concurrent with duck season and from January 26-30-31- <u>February 4, 2004-2005.</u> Goose hunting in this zone by means of falconry is not permitted. Federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona, where goose hunting by means of falconry is not permitted.</p>	<p>Daily bag limit: 3</p> <p>Daily bag limit makeup:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either all of 1 species or a mixture of species allowed for take. <p>Possession limit: 6</p>

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 202 and 355, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 202, 355 and 356, Fish and Game Code.